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U.S. Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear FCC Chairman and Commissioners:

As a city councilwoman, one of my primary goals was ensuring that all of my constituents have equal access to the modern communications and digital technologies so essential to civic participation in the twenty-first Century.

So I am concerned that the Commission is considering banning exclusive arrangements between owners of multiple-dwelling units (MDUs) and providers of video and broadband networks. As you know, it is always a challenge both physically and financially for network operators to build their systems into every corner of a community. But these arrangements have helped provide companies with the guaranteed customer base necessary to justify investing in some of the more hard to reach places – and in so doing have helped provide access to broadband and video services and affordable rates to millions of residents. I might add that many of the families residing in MDUs are those that for whatever reason are not able to purchase a home of their own, so the extra monthly fees required for communications and entertainment services might be more than they can afford. But because these exclusive agreements often include discounted rates for bundles of video, voice and Internet service, they help put the latest digital technologies within reach for our families and their children.

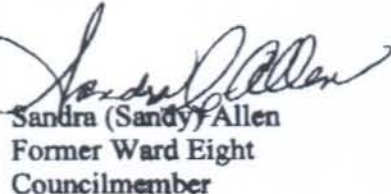
So I am confounded to arrive at a reason why such agreements – entered into between willing parties that are well within state and local jurisdiction – should be unilaterally voided by the Federal government. It seems that this may be an instance of vast government intrusion into state and local matters that is likely to result in significantly less competition, higher prices, and less investment in places in my community.

Local officials are often the ones on the ground best positioned to care for their constituents, but at almost every turn the FCC is working to undermine our role. Its opposition to MDU contracts follows on the heels of the Section 621 video franchising Order that unfairly labeled local officials as barriers to video competition, when our primary objective has always been encouraging more investment for all of our

neighborhoods. We have had to fight against the desire by some new entrants to the video marketplace to only serve the wealthiest residents while bypassing lower-income homes. Yet the Commission's actions are preventing us for looking out for our neighborhoods, especially those that are low-income or minority.

The Commission should refrain from adopting a rule that would prevent companies and building owners from agreeing to deploy low cost video and broadband services. It should oppose the proposed rule in MB Docket 07-51.

Sincerely,



Sandra (Sandy) Allen
Former Ward Eight
Councilmember